

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A fluid filter comprising:
 - a housing having an end portion with a first aperture;
 - a center portion arranged in said housing and proximate to said end portion, said center portion extending generally longitudinally including a second aperture; and
 - a valve assembly captured by said center portion and said end portion and including flexible relief valve adjacent to said second aperture for selective blocking said second aperture, said relief valve disposed within said center portion generally longitudinally therewith.
2. The fluid filter according to claim 1, wherein the relief valve is an elastomeric material.
3. The fluid filter according to claim 1, wherein said relief valve includes a U-shaped portion defining a recess with an end of said center portion received in said recess.
4. The fluid filter according to claim 3, wherein the relief valve extends from said u-shaped portion to a terminal end, said terminal end sealing against an inner surface of said center portion in a closed position.
5. The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein said terminal ends each include enlarged portions respectively sealing against said end portion and center portion.

6. The fluid filter according to claim 3, wherein said U-shaped portion seals against said end portion preventing fluid flow past said U-shaped portion between said first and second apertures.
7. The fluid filter according to claim 1, wherein the relief valve includes a circular cross-section.
8. The fluid filter according to claim 1, wherein said valve assembly includes an anti-drain back valve spaced outwardly from said relief valve, said anti-drain back valve captured between said center portion and an end disc movable relative to said center portion.
9. The fluid filter according to claim 9, including a filter element arranged within said housing and defining a central opening, said center portion comprising a center tube arranged within said central opening.
10. The fluid filter according to claim 10, wherein a side of said filter element adjacent to said center tube is a fluid outlet side and said opposing side of said filter element is a fluid inlet side, said relief valve arranged between said fluid inlet and outlet sides at said first aperture, and said anti-drain back valve arranged between said second aperture and said fluid inlet side.

11. The fluid filter according to claim 10, wherein said end portion is a tapping plate including a threaded central aperture.

12. The fluid filter according to claim 1, wherein said relief and anti-drain back portions are formed by annular lips oriented transverse to one another.

13. A fluid filter valve comprising:

an elastomeric structure including an annular recess separating said relief and anti-drain back valves extending from said recess to a terminal end, said structure having a central hole arranged inwardly of said terminal end and said recess forming a fulcrum.

14. The fluid filter valve according to claim 13, wherein said recess is formed by a U-shaped portion.

15. The fluid filter valve according to claim 14, wherein a lip extends from said U-shaped portion to said terminal end with said terminal end including enlarged portion.